

Blue Jay football to host Ellis

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School football team will begin the 2011 and Mid-Continent League season Friday night at 7 p.m. by hosting the always tough Ellis Railroaders at Travis Field.

Although Norton shutout Ellis 13-0 in last season's opener in Ellis, most games between the two schools have come down to several plays making the difference and the Railroaders usually prevailing.

Sixth year Norton head coach Lucas Melvin feels that Ellis will bring another outstanding team to Norton to battle with his Blue Jays.

"They are well coached and play hard, physical football," he stated.

Ellis is a perennial playoff team in Class 2A.

Two senior players on the Ellis roster standout: Jared Herl, 6'4", 225 pound fullback and Riley Hunsicker, 5'10", 155 pound quarterback, defensive back.

Herl, a former first team All-Mid-Continent League player, was injured part of last season but is healthy this season. Hunsicker played multiple roles last year but has become the fulltime signal caller this season.

Norton has 52 players on this year's roster but few returning starters from a 9-1 squad which lost only to Beloit in a 42-35 playoff heartbreaker.

Last season's Norton football team was one of the better ones in recent years. They were Mid-Continent League champions, Class 3A District champions, Class 3A Bi-District champions and Class 3A Regional runner-up, ending their season just two games from the state championship contest.

"Our strength is in our numbers," said coach Melvin. "They are all competing near the same

level against each other.

"We are getting better in some areas but still have a long ways to go. Some players have been stepping up so I think we're on the right track. We're receiving some leadership and it has to continue.

"We came to fall practice after having more guys in the weight room over the summer and more attending the Hutchinson camp.

"This first game will tell us more where we are than anything."

Returning lettermen

Sixteen lettermen return from last year's outstanding season.

They are: Tye Nickell, 5'9", 150 pounds, running back, defensive back; Trey Millan, 5'10", 165 pounds, running back, linebacker; Jordan Wahlmeier, 6'4", 180 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Dillon McConney, 6', 150 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Taylor Meder, 6', 145 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Robert Blecha, 5'11", 180 pounds, tight end, linebacker; Justin Waggoner, 5'8", 145 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Damien Davis, 6', 165 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Casey Temmel, 6'190 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Kurt Douglas, 5'7", 175 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Tyler Lewis, 5'10", 255 pounds, offensive line, defensive tackle, seniors; Jacob Brooks, 6'2", 175 pounds, running back, wide receiver; Eli Bozarth, 6', 160 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker; Alex Riggins, 6'2", 275 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Lane Bigge, 6', 200 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Carson McKenna, 5'10", 155 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, juniors.

Other squad members

Additional squad members are: Cayleb Campbell, 5'10", 195 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker, senior; John Rise-

wick, 5'8", 140 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Dalton Miller, 6', 185 pounds, quarterback, linebacker; Andrew Ellis, 6'2", 145 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Jared Bohl, 6', 165 pounds, running back, linebacker; Treven Rossi, 5'8", 165 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker; Lane Vanover, 6', 220 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Lucas Engel, 5'11", 180 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Dylan Sprigg, 6'4", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end, juniors;

Toby Nickell, 5'7", 145 pounds, running back, defensive back; Austin Hager, 5'10", 145 pounds, running back, linebacker; Trevor Lewis, 5'8", 140 pounds, tight end, defensive back; Tanner Furbush, 5'11", 160 pounds, running back, linebacker; Ethan Ross, 5'3", 115 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Travis Cressler, 5'11", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Cole Renner, 5'9", 165 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Cody Temmel, 5'8", 135 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Michael Johnson, 5'8", 210 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Kolton Harting, 6', 195 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Leif Carlson, 5'10", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Drew Schrum, 5'7", 135 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, sophomores;

Caysean Campbell, 5', 100 pounds, running back, linebacker; Kendall Miller, 5'10", 140 pounds, quarterback, linebacker; Derek Campbell, 5'10", 140 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Kobie Unterseher, 5'6", 120 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Christian Bosser, 5'10, 150 pounds, running back, linebacker; Stewart Whitney, 5'7", 150 pounds, running back, linebacker; Jared Tallent,

5'6", 125 pounds, running back, linebacker; Breven Sondergaard, 6'1", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Tyler Kuhn, 6'4", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Chris Chastain, 5'11", 170 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker; Chris Reynolds, 6', 255 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Jordan Karnopp, 6', 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Wyatt Harting, 6'2", 210 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Derek Rowh, 5'7", 130 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive tackle; Conor Cox, 6'4", 170 pounds, tight end, defensive end, freshmen.

Post-season honors

Senior wide receiver and defensive back Dillon McConney is the only returning Norton player who has received All-Mid-Continent League recognition. Dillon was chosen by league coaches to the second team on offense after last season.

Assistant coaches

Assistant coaches this season are Todd Fulton, Tony Fiscus, Jeremy Hawks and Ben Gordon.

Managers are Anthony Wente and Dustan Daniels.

Filmers are Alec Melvin and Kamilla Jones.

Rick Green will keep statistics.

Coach Melvin's background

Coach Melvin is a graduate of Colby High School. He attended Hutchinson Community College for two years and Fort Hays State University for two years. He played football all four years.

For 14 years in Norton, he has been a junior high and high school track and football assistant coach and has been the head football coach the past five seasons.

degree in geology from Mesa State in Grand Junction, Colo. and his teaching certificate from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.

His assistant coach again this season is Nicole Satran. She is a graduate of Trego Community High School in WaKeeney. She ran cross country all four years for the Golden Eagles and competed in the State Meet twice. She received her bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University.

"Our boys as well as our girls have their work cut out for them."

Coaches' backgrounds

Although in just his third year as head Norton cross country coach, coach Rossi is no stranger to Blue Jay athletics. He coached junior high football for 21 years and junior high track in Norton for the past 23 years. He has also been the assistant girls basketball coach at Norton Community High School for the past 21 years.

Coach Rossi has a bachelor's



Norton senior running back Trey Millan breaks a tackle during the Blue Jays' scrimmage at Travis Field on Saturday morning. The Blue Jays will play Ellis here on Friday night to open their 2011 season. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Football Schedule

Varsity Football

- Fri., Sept. 2 - Ellis Here 7 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 9 - St. Francis There 7 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 16 - Plainville There 7 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 23 - Oberlin (Homecoming) Here 7 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 30 - Smith Center There 7 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 7 - Perryton, Texas Here 7 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 14 - Goodland Here 7 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 21 - Thomas More Prep-Marian-Hays There 7 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 27 - Phillipsburg Here 7 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 1 - Bi-District Here TBA
- Sat., Nov. 5 - Regional There TBA
- Fri., Nov. 11 - Sectional There TBA
- Fri., Nov. 18 - Sub-State There TBA
- Sat., Nov. 26 - State Football in Hutchinson 1 p.m.

Junior Varsity Football

- Tues., Sept. 6 - Hays High There 5 p.m.
- Mon., Sept. 12 - St. Francis Here 5:30 p.m.
- Mon., Sept. 26 - Oberlin There 5:30 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 3 - Phillipsburg There 6 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 10 - Smith Center Here 5:30 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 17 - Goodland There 5:30 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 24 - Plainville There 5:30 p.m.



**Good Luck
Blue Jays!**

Norton Cross Country Invitational here on Thursday

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Third year head coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School cross country teams will begin the 2011 season by hosting the annual Norton Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday at the Prairie Dog Golf Course south of Norton.

The meet will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the junior varsity race and will continue with the girls varsity race at 5 p.m. and the boys varsity race at 5:30 p.m.

The boys will run 3.1 miles and the girls will run 2.5 miles.

Team medals will be awarded to the top three boys and girls teams. Individual medals will go to the top 15 varsity boys and girls and the top 10 junior varsity boys and girls.

Competing in addition to Norton will be teams from Ellis, Hill City, Hoxie, Northern Valley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Stockton, Trego Community and Wheatland.

The Lady Jays have won the championship of the Norton Invitational the past five years and the Blue Jay boys have won the championship the past two years after placing third three years ago, second four years ago and winning it three years in a row prior to that.

Coach Rossi has eight girls and 13 boys on this year's roster.

Returning girls letter winners

from last season's state championship team are: Kamilla Jones, junior, top 2010 time 16:58; Julia Kent, junior, returning state placer, top 2010 time 16:47; Katelyn Engelbert, sophomore, returning state placer, top 2010 time 16:40; Darcy Bainter, sophomore, top 2010 time 16:44; Marisa Maddy, sophomore, top 2010 time 17:05.

Other members of the girls team are Steph Hager, junior and Sierra Griffith and Jesika Smith, both freshmen.

Returning boys lettermen and their top 2010 times are: Zach Hartwell, senior, returning state placer, top 2010 time 17:29; Bryan Henry, senior, returning state placer, top 2010 time 17:50; Marc Miller, sophomore, top 2010 time 18:38; Alec Hager, sophomore, top 2010 time 18:39; John Renner, junior, top 2010 time 19:00.

Other squad members are: Eric Becker, senior; Ryan Bainter, junior who had a 2010 time of 21:44; Garret Otter, Chris Chambers, Keith Sander, Andrew Smith, sophomores; Dalton Vanover, David Smith, freshmen.

Freshman Andrew McMullen is the student manager for the teams.

The Norton girls won the state championship for the first time ever last season and the Blue Jay boys placed fifth in the state meet. It was the second season that both the girls and boys

teams qualified for the state meet in the same year.

Katelyn Engelbert placed 13th and Julia Kent finished right behind her in 14th in last year's state meet.

Zach Hartwell was fifth and Bryan Henry was 19th in last year's state meet.

The Norton girls also won the Class 3A Regional Meet championship in Larned last season and the Norton boys were the runner-up team in the Regional meet. Both girls and boys were the Mid-Continent League champions for the third season in a row.

Coach's comments

"We return five members of our state championship team from last year," said coach Rossi.

"We lost our No.1 runner Astrid Moen, who was an exchange student, and valuable senior Dustyna Sprigg from last season's team. Katelyn Engelbert and Julia Kent placed at the state meet last year and Kamilla Jones, Marisa Maddy and Darcy Bainter were also members of our state championship team. Kamilla, Marisa and Darcy placed in the top 35 in the state meet.

"Our girls have high hopes of repeating the season they had last year. Our girls have put in many miles this summer in preparation for this season.

"Our boys team lost Troy Bainter and Kegan Vanover

- tational There 3:45 p.m.
- Thurs., Sept. 22 - Hill City Invitational There 5 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 24 - Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence 9 a.m.
- Tues., Sept. 27 - Oberlin Invitational There 5 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 6 - MCL Meet in

- Phillipsburg 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 13 - Lakeside Invitational There 4 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 22 - Regional Meet TBA
- Sat., Oct. 29 - State Meet - Rim Rock - Lawrence TBA

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

- Norton Blue Jays vs. Ellis Railroaders 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
- Norton Junior Varsity vs. Hays High School 5 p.m. Tuesday in Hays
- Northern Valley Huskies vs. Weskan 3:30 p.m. Friday in Weskan
- Logan Trojans vs. Wheatland/Grinnell 7 p.m. Friday in Grainfield
- Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Western Plains 6 p.m. Tuesday in Almena

VOLLEYBALL:

- Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Colby/Osborne 4:30 p.m. Today in Osborne
- Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Northern Valley/Phillipsburg 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
- Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Rock Hills, Lakeside, Thunder Ridge 4 p.m. Today in Mankato

- Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Weskan 2 p.m. Friday in Weskan
- Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Phillipsburg/Norton 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
- Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco/Natoma 4 p.m. Today in Natoma
- Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco/Rock Hills 4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

CROSS COUNTRY:

- Norton Cross Country Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
- Northern Valley Huskies in Norton Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton

TENNIS:

- Norton Lady Jays in Hays Varsity Invitational 3 p.m. Thursday in Hays
- Norton Lady Jays in Colby Varsity Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Colby
- Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Invitational 1 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
- Norton Junior Varsity in Singles Tournament 3 p.m. Today in Russell

Norton

Cross Country Schedule

- Thurs., Sept. 1 - Norton Invitational Here 4:30 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 10 - Wamego Invitational There 11 a.m.
- Thurs., Sept. 15 - Hays Invi-